

URBAN DISTRICT OF

RHYMNEY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1937.

Powell & Son, Printers, Rhymney.

Rhymney

Urban District Council.

Chairman (1937)	...	...	...	Councillor D. W. Evans, J.P.
Vice-Chairman (1937)	...	...	...	Councillor Albert Williams
Clerk to the Council	...	...	...	W. H. Trump, Esq., Solicitor.

MEMBERS :

Upper Ward

Councillor W. T. Hopkin
Councillor John Jones
Councillor D. J. Matthews
Councillor D. W. Evans, J.P.

Middle Ward.

Councillor O. A. Evans
Councillor Reginald Griffiths
Councillor W. R. Morgan

Lower Ward.

Councillor Albert Williams
Councillor Rev. Ieuan Evans
Councillor Howel Hinkin (deceased)
Councillor W. J. Greene

Abertysswg Ward.

Councillor Gwilym Richards
Councillor Daniel Roberts
Councillor Philip Price

During the year Councillor Howell Hinkin—who had only recently been elected to the Council—met his death under very tragic circumstances, and we take this opportunity to record and pay tribute to the efficiency with which he had commenced his services as a member of the Council.

The vacancy was filled by Councillor W. J. Greene.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time):

R. V. de Acton Redwood, F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Sanitary Inspector (Whole time) :

G. R. Davies, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Certificated Sanitary Inspector, The Royal Sanitary Institute,
Certificated Inspector of Meat and other Foods, The Royal Sanitary Institute.

**To the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Rhymney.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year 1937. This has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 1650 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

**SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.**

During 1937 there has been very little improvement in the economic and industrial conditions prevailing in this Urban District, and it is rather doubtful whether the Collieries will ever again absorb all the Unemployed, especially those aged 45 years and over.

New Industries. Although excellent efforts have been made to obtain new industries, so far, we have not obtained even one. Some new industries must be suited to Rhymney. With the speeding up of rearmament and the many industries large and small connected with it, and with the acknowledged necessity for comparative safety from air-raids, it is surprising that Rhymney—with its ready made site of the old iron works and shops, sidings connected with the railway and only 24 miles from Cardiff, coal, water, electricity, compressed air, and labour available from Rhymney, Abertysswg, Pontlottyn and New Tredegar—have not received any consideration despite the continued efforts of the District Council.

Rhymney is one of the scheduled distressed areas, where Unemployment is most rife. One of the most depressing effects of this Unemployment is the exodus of able-bodied young men who are leaving the district to seek work elsewhere, either through the local Labour Exchange or of their own accord. This will inevitably lead to a loss in the growing capacity of the population of this district.

Despite the conditions prevailing—the limited means of those employed and unemployed—it is worthy to note that there was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, but it is only to be expected that the health and physical efficiency of the majority of the inhabitants have deteriorated in consequence.

Cases of Gastric Ulcer have increased—quite a number have perforated—many have been proved by operation.

During the past few years there has been a great increase in cases of "pustulosis" i.e. carbuncular boils and carbuncles bad enough to be admitted to Hospital. In my opinion insufficient and unsuitable food has been the main cause of the increase of these gastric and septic cases.

**The following Table will show how PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
has increased :—**

			No. of Cases.	No. of Persons
Year ended 31st December, 1933	...	...	396	861
Year ended 31st December, 1934	...	...	425	817
Year ended 31st December, 1935	...	...	424	875
Year ended 31st December, 1936	...	..	432	769
Year ended 31st December, 1937	...	...	387	689
Area of the district in Acres	...	...	...	2,648
Population at Census, 1921	...	...	...	11,690
Population at Census, 1931	...	...	...	10,506
Estimated Resident Population upon which statistics are based	...			9,576
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books				2,323
Rateable Value—1st April, 1937	...	...	...	£26,175
31st December, 1937	..	...	...	£26,177
Sum represented by Penny Rate for the year ended				
31st March, 1937...	...	...	£88	14s. 0.8d.

For all administrative purposes the whole of the Urban Area is included in the County of Monmouth.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	Males	Females	
Live Births,				
Legitimate ...	143	83	60	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident pop- ulation .. 15.2
Illegitimate ...	2	1	1	

The above rate is .3 above that of England and Wales (14.9), and .3 below that of Monmouthshire (15.5).

	Total	Males	Females	
Still Births	...	5	2	3
				Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... 33.3

Owing to the exodus of young people it is surprising the rate is not lower.

	Total	Males	Females	
Deaths	...	130	76	54
				Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident pop- ulation ... 13.5

The figure for England and Wales is 12.4. Monmouthshire, 12.6.

The general death rate of 13.5 is an increase of .8 on the rate for 1936 which was 12.7. This rate will tend to increase as the average age is higher owing to young people leaving the district.

			Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of Childbirth—				
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	1	6.66
Other Puerperal diseases	...	...	Nil	Nil
Total			1	6.66

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	111.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	110.3

There were 16 deaths under 1 year (all legitimate).

The death-Rate of Infants under one year of age is 110.3 per 1,000 live births ; for England and Wales, 58 ; and for Monmouthshire, 63.9. This is a high and unsatisfactory rate, 110.3, as against 51.6 for 1936, which was satisfactory.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	9
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	12

Particulars of unusual or excessive Mortality during the year—None.

Ages of Death of Children Under One Year of Age.

Under 1 week	...	...	...	...	3
1—2 weeks	...	...	...	...	0
2—3 weeks	...	...	...	...	0
3—4 weeks	...	...	...	...	1
Total under 1 month					4
1—3 months	...	...	...	...	3
3—6 months	...	...	...	...	4
6—9 months	...	...	...	...	2
9 to under 12 months	...	...	...	...	3
Total under 1 year					16

Note—The rate for 1937 is 58.7 above the 1936 rate, and it is also above the rates for England and Wales and Monmouthshire, which is very unsatisfactory.

N.B.—A clinic is provided for the mothers and infants with milk and dried milk, supplied at cost price, or free, when considered necessary. (Infant Welfare Report). During 1937 a separate clinic for expectant mothers was held once a month.

The Rate per 1,000 live births for 5 years—

1937, 110.3 ; 1936, 51.6 ; 1935, 74 ; 1934, 46.63 ; 1933, 81.5.

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Death Rate.	Live Birth- Rate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
	All Causes		Total Deaths under one year.
England and Wales	12.4	14.9	58
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	12.5	14.9	62
148 Smaller Towns (Est. Resident Populations 25,000—50,000) ...	11.9	15.3	55
London	12.3	13.3	60
Rhymney Urban District ...	13.5	15.2	110.3
Monmouthshire	12.6	15.5	63.9

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

This information will be found at the beginning of the report.

(a) NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General—One District Nurse at Rhymney maintained by a Nursing Association affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association.

The District Nurse at Abertysswg has been dispensed with, sufficient funds not being available owing to the continued depression in the coal industry.

Nursing of Cases of Infectious Disease—The District Council have given me power to temporarily employ a Nurse or Health Visitor during an epidemic should I consider it essential ; no provision during the year.

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A supply of cases for taking material for Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations is kept at the District Council Offices, and can be obtained by all the Medical Men in the District. The specimens are sent to the Mon. County Council Laboratory at Newport, and the results of examinations telephoned and sent by post.

Anti-diphtheritic Serum is provided by the Local Authority, and is used in every case diagnosed as Diphtheria in the District.

Streptocide for maternity cases is supplied by the Mon. County Council. A supply is kept at the Health Dept., Rhymney, and given out upon request.

(c) LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

In addition to the Compulsory Acts, (and adopted Acts), Orders and Regulations in force in the district, Bye-Laws have been adopted dealing with the following matters—

Cleansing of Footways and Pavements.

Cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools.

Prevention of keeping animals on any premises so as to be a nuisance or injurious to health.

Prevention of nuisances arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes and rubbish, Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging Houses, Offensive Trades, Houses let in Lodgings, New Streets and Buildings.

No Local Acts or Bye-Laws came into force during 1937.

(d) HOSPITALS (Infectious Disease)—Arrangements are made with other Local Authorities to remove cases of infectious diseases to their Isolation Hospitals when I consider it necessary. The advice of the County Medical Officer of Health is asked for before approaching other Local Authorities.

TUBERCULOSIS.—No provision by District Council. All Tuberculosis cases are known to the Medical Officers of the King Edward VII. Memorial, who hold a Clinic in the centre of the district once a month.

All appropriate cases are offered and urged to go to the Hospitals and Sanatoria provided by the Memorial.

MATERNITY.—No provision by District Council. All expectant mothers are urged to attend the ante-natal clinic of the Monmouthshire County Council at the Cookery Centre at Rhymney. Cases of probable or possible complications are sent to Cardiff for further consultation, and, if necessary, admitted to the Maternity Home connected with Cardiff Infirmary at Glossop Terrace.

Any unexpected emergency, unfit for removal to Cardiff, is dealt with at the Rhymney Hospital.

Some cases at their own request, or for minor complications, are admitted to the Tredegar Maternity Home.

CHILDREN.—No provision by Council. Surgical cases go to the Cottage Hospitals of Rhymney and Abertysswg.

Orthopædic cases, through the County Council, go to their Clinics, at places and times arranged by them.

A Rheumatic Clinic (post rheumatic hearts) has been provided by the Monmouthshire County Council during the year.

INCURABLES.—(Inoperative Malignant Disease).—The only provision is the Poor Law Hospital at Tredegar. The need for further provision is constantly being felt for these cases.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS.—Illegitimate Children and Homeless Children,—The Infirmary at Tredegar and the Children's Homes at Tredegar and Rhymney is the only provision for this district

OTHER.—Poor Law cases needing Hospital Treatment are sent to the Infirmary at Tredegar (4 miles).

The Rhymney Cottage Hospital and the Abertysswg Cottage Hospital owned by the Workmen of the district, admit surgical cases, i.e., accidents and surgical diseases of the workmen and their dependents.

Medical and Surgical cases are also sent to the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, and the Gwent Hospital, Newport.

Convalescent cases amongst colliery workmen go to Talygarn Miners' Welfare Home, also Porthcawl Rest.

A few women go to the Convalescent Home at Southerdown. There is very little provision for convalescent women (one small home for a large area).

There is no provision for convalescence for children.

(e) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Diseases, none. See Note below.

For Works Accidents, a Motor Ambulance, provided according to the provisions of the Mines Act by the Local Colliery Proprietors.

A Modern Motor Ambulance (two stretchers) provided by the Rhymney Cottage Hospital, for the Dependents of Workmen, and other than Colliery cases.

A Motor Ambulance may be obtained from the County Council for Infectious cases on request.

VII. (CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES).

Name.	Situation.	Accommodation.	By whom provided.	Periods.
Maternity & Child Welfare	Rhymney	Cookery Centre, Mid. School	Mon. County Council	Once a week
" "	Abertysswg	Ainon Baptist Chapel	" "	" "
Ante Natal Clinic	Rhymney	Cookery Centre	" "	Once a month
General School Clinics	Rhymney and Abertysswg	Elementary Schools	" "	Periodical
Special School Clinics. Tonsils and Adenoids	Rhymney Cottage	Hospital, Operating Theatre	" "	Once in 3 weeks
Ear Clinic	Pengam	Vine House	" "	Once in 2 weeks
Eyes	Rhymney Cottage	Hospital X-Rays Room	" "	Weekly (approx.) ∞
Teeth	Rhymney	Central Surgery	" "	Weekly (approx.)
Post-Rheumatic	Hengoed	Central Surgery	" "	Every 3 months (approx.)
Tuberculosis	Rhymney } Abertysswg }	Rhymney Central Surgery	" "	Monthly
Venereal Disease	Newport	Newport County Hospital	" "	3 days a week, 2 days male, 1 day female.
Pre-Mental	Newport	" "	" "	1st & 3rd Thursdays in each month
Day Nurseries	None	None		
Artificial Light	None	None		

Note.—In the case of Special School Clinics and Tuberculosis cases from other Districts, such as New Tredegar and Aberbargoed, attend as well.

(f) **MIDWIVES.**—There are five Certified Midwives (by examination) practising in the district. The Public Health Authority have nothing to do with payment for their employment.

(g) **MATERNAL MORTALITY.**—All cases of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia are notified to the County Medical Officer, and he arranges for investigations to be carried out.

(h) **HEALTH VISITING.**—This is under the supervision of the Monmouthshire County Council.

(i) **CHILDREN'S ACT, 1908**—There is a Children's Home (about 18 children) under the control of the Monmouthshire County Council through the Public Assistance Committee, regularly inspected and in charge of a Foster Mother.

Baby-Farmers in the District—Nil.

(j) **ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.**—Orthopædic Cases, through the County Council, attend their Clinics, at places and times arranged by them.

(k) **MATERNITY and NURSING HOMES.**—There is no Maternity or Nursing Home in the District. The Monmouthshire County Council have a Home near Newport. In every case of maternal mortality, due to pregnancy or childbirth, full particulars are sent to the Welsh Board of Health on a suitable form.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The conditions remain the same as at the end of last year, the supply is ample and of good quality. Samples are taken by the Rhymney Valley Water Board.

Source A.—Gathering Ground at Blaen Rhymney; this empties into (1) Old Reservoir, 9,000,000 gallons; (2) New Reservoir, 46,000,000 gallons, the property of the Rhymney Valley Water Board.

Source B.—From the Taff Fechan Reservoir, the property of the Taff Fechan Supply Board. Capacity, 350,000,000 gallons.

The Taff Fechan Reservoir of the Taff Fechan Supply Board was formally opened in July, 1927, and on the 1st April, 1928, the Board assumed complete responsibility for the water undertaking.

Springs.—On the whole these have been fairly successful throughout the year. The supply to Princetown is continual, but recent examination has shown manurial contamination, and that the water has a very strong solvent action upon lead.

The Rhymney Urban District Council is a contributory authority to the Rhymney Valley Water Board with representation thereon.

Rivers and Streams.—As mentioned in previous reports, a coal washery at Abertysswg discharges into a stream which enters the River Rhymney. The attention of the Colliery Company had to be drawn to the matter during the year.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—With the exception of minor improvements and the clearing of blockages, the Sewers have, on the whole, worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

The Rhymney Urban District Council is a contributory authority to the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board with representation thereon.

Lighting.—Electricity, Rhymney and Princetown ; and Gas at Abertysswg.

Fire Brigade.—There were no outbreaks of fire during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—With the exception of outlying districts and isolated farm houses, the whole district is served by the water carriage system.

There were no conversions during the year.

Earth Closets (existing at the outlying houses only) are cleared by the tenants, excepting those at Colliers Row, New Zealand Houses, Ffosyrhebog Cottages, Ras Brynoer and Susannah Houses, which are cleared by the Council's men.

Scavenging.—The method remains the same as in former years, a daily collection by the Contractors under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

House Refuse.—During the year Circular Letters were sent to some houses in the district. These contained instructions and advice, together with an appeal to each tenant to refrain from throwing refuse upon open spaces, back lanes and watercourses, etc.

The method of refuse disposal at Rhymney is the same as that adopted in the other districts of the County ; viz. tipping on suitable land.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.—Sanitary Conveniences have been provided where necessary. The attention of the occupiers has also been drawn to Section 10 (1) (b), temperature, and literature containing suggestions, has been distributed.

Smoke Abatement.—No action necessary during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—None in area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—8 houses (2 Council and 6 other houses) were found to be infested, and the whole premises treated.

The methods adopted are :—

(1) Sulphur or Patent Block Disinfestators and then spraying with insecticide.

(2) Removal of skirting boards, etc., and using a blow-lamp.

At the moment there is no method employed of ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses. Before letting a Council house, the house occupied by the applicant could very easily be inspected, and this suggestion I respectfully ask the Council to consider.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority.

Insecticides are also given (free) to tenants.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Of the Notices served, 20 were statutory, and 112 informal.

NUISANCES DETECTED.			Total.
(1)	Dilapidated, Defective and Choked W.C. Drains	...	8
(2)	Insufficient W.C. and privy accommodation	...	3
(3)	To open and repair slop drains	...	6
(4)	To drain, flush and cleanse urinals	...	0
(5)	To provide or repair cisterns in W.C.'s	...	3
(6)	To pave and repair back yards	...	6
(7)	To remove foul accumulations	...	3
(8)	To cleanse cesspools	...	0
(9)	To cleanse dwelling houses and bedding	...	2
(10)	To provide and repair rain water troughing, etc.	...	24
(11)	To repair drain vent pipes.	...	0
(12)	To limewash pig or chicken-cots	...	2
(13)	To prevent overcrowding	...	0
(14)	Under Dairies and Cowshed's Regulations	...	0
(15)	To prevent pollution of streams or rivers	...	0
(16)	To repair defective house roofs causing dampness	...	37
(17)	To provide sinks in houses	...	0
(18)	To provide or repair coal places	...	1
(19)	To cleanse watercourses	...	1
(20)	To repair W.C. walls, roofs, doors and floors	...	14
(21)	To provide new W.C. pans	...	1
(22)	To provide new ovens	...	0
(23)	To repair privies or provide new pails	...	5
(24)	To prove or repair pantries	...	7
(25)	To repair fireplaces	...	7
(26)	To repair or take down dangerous chimney stacks and rebuild	...	7
(27)	To replaster walls	...	12
(28)	To rebuild boundary walls	...	2
(29)	To repair house floors	...	18
(30)	To repair broken ceilings	...	12
(31)	To provide slop drains	...	0
(32)	Defective condition of main walls	...	14
(33)	Defective condition of house doors or windows	...	31
(34)	Other nuisances	...	14

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Houses (houses measured not included)	...	...	115
Infectious diseases investigated	...	...	59
Slaughterhouses	...	...	246
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	66
Vans and Tents	...	None in District.	
Cinema	...	...	4
Common Lodging Houses	...	None in District.	
Factories and Workshops (including Bakehouses)	...	...	44
Shops	...	...	Numerous
Complaints received	...	...	Numerous

RESULTS OF THE ABOVE INSPECTIONS.

Nuisances detected	...	...	240
Notices issued	...	...	132
Premises disinfected	...	...	31
Length of drains examined	...	250 ft. and 7 new inspection chambers	

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—With the exception of a little gut scraping in one establishment, there are none in the district.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary condition and water supply of the schools are on the whole satisfactory. No child from an infected house is allowed to attend school until the person notified as suffering from an infectious disease is certified by a Medical Practitioner as being free from infection and the house and clothes disinfected.

It was not necessary to close any of the Schools during the year in consequence of any Epidemic.

The disinfection of schools, when necessary, is carried out by the County Sanitary Inspector in company with the District Sanitary Inspector.

RATS and MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.—Baits were laid at various places throughout the year. During "Rat Week" literature was sent to all Food Premises, Farms, etc., and baits were laid at the Council's Refuse Tip and in the Sewers, with good results. Posters were also exhibited in the Town, and baits issued to various people for use at their respective premises. Dogs and ferrets were also used from time to time throughout the year, with good results.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Housing and Overcrowding.—What has been said in previous Annual Reports to show the necessity for more houses of a suitable type, is true to-day.

Unfit Houses.—A large amount of work has been accomplished in the way of repairing houses, but there are still a number of unfit houses in the district that should be closed. Owing to the distressed condition of the district it has been impossible to take this action, as there are no new houses for the occupants to go to. Minor repairs are being carried out from time to time.

It is essential that new houses of a suitable type and at rentals that the working classes can afford to pay be provided immediately.

After many inspections by experts, the Nant-Melin site of the Council (which is on the coal outcrop) has been considered to be safe from subsidence. Sixty houses have already been erected on this site, and there is room and suitable land available for a further 500 houses. It is acknowledged that it is the only site safe from subsidence in the upper half of the Rhymney Valley.

The site has been plotted out for 150 houses. 50 of these have been completed. It is essential that at least a further 50 houses at this site be proceeded with as soon as possible, and from a health and overcrowding standpoint, I consider this is the most important necessity for the present and future welfare of the district. The site, at present, is used as allotments by the local unemployed men.

It was held by a Royal Commission that miners, especially in the narrow valleys, should not live directly over the pits, but reside, if possible, in the wider and more healthy parts of the valley, a reasonable distance from from their work. I beg to submit that the advantages from a health point of view of this arrangement far out-weigh any possible disadvantages, and is a further reason for proceeding with the development of the Pen-y-Dre site.

During the year "Housing" matters were discussed from time to time. It is hoped that it will be found possible to embark on the first instalment of slum clearance during 1938.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	...	1
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :		
(i) By the Local Authority	... ..	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	... ..	Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :

1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	... ..	115
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose (including visits to ascertain whether work, etc., carried out)	... ..	260
2 (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	... ..	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	Nil
3 Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	3
4 Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	112

(2) Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	89
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(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
2 Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Informal ...	89
	Statutory ...	23
2 Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By Owners		23
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners		Nil

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

(4) Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :

(a) 1 Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	109
2 Number of families dwelling therein	125
3 Number of persons dwelling therein	795
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	Nil
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) 1st July, 1937, and 1st January, 1938, were the appointed days under the Act. The houses were measured, etc., during the year, and the permitted numbers forwarded to the owners.	

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Milk Supply.—At the end of the year the names on the register were as follows : Retail Purveyors of Milk, 33 ; Cowkeepers, 17 ; Wholesale Purveyors of Milk, Nil.

The majority of the cowsheds are on a small scale, housing on an average two or three cows only. On the whole general cleanliness is maintained.

The provision of proper sterilising and cooling equipment cannot be too strongly urged. Milkshops in the area are carried on in conjunction with the sale of confectionery and refreshments, etc. In nearly all the farms the water is obtained from springs, etc.

Special designations —Two “Dealers Licenses” to sell milk as pasteurised were in force during the year. No milk under any of the other designations is sold within the area.

During the past year 36 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. One cow giving tuberculosis milk was discovered and slaughtered, and the post-mortem examination revealed tuberculous lesions.

“Clean Milk” literature was distributed to all Milk Producers and Vendors in the district.

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection.—During the year two licensed slaughter houses were in use. Since September, 1932, all animals with the exception of bacon pigs, are killed at the slaughter houses. Two hundred and forty six visits for the purpose of meat inspection were made by the Sanitary Inspector, who possesses the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Meat condemned during the year :

	lbs.		lbs.		Heads.
Beef ...	30	Offal ...	40	Pigs ...	4
Livers ...	81	Ham ...	28		
Bacon ...	30				

Number of Animals killed at the Slaughter Houses during the year :

Oxen, 95 ; Sheep, 990 ; Pigs, 345 ; Calves, 62.

3 Bacon Pigs were examined at Farm Premises.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	95	--	62	990	345
Number inspected	89	—	60	950	327
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	—	20	—
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	3.3	—	—	2.1	—
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.22

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.—These Regulations have been carried out in a satisfactory manner on the whole.

Morning, afternoon and evening visits were made to the slaughter-houses.

Diseased Carcasses or Organs.—If not reported, it is understood by the butchers and slaughtermen that surrender of any diseased or unsound carcase or organs would not be entertained, and that seizure would follow.

Blowing of Carcases.—This is done with a pump, and is allowed under the regulations.

Market Place.—There is no market place in the district.

Shops, Stores.—There has been no cause for complaint as to the protection of the meat from contamination and the sanitary condition of the premises.

Transport and Handling.—The conditions generally are satisfactory.

Other foods condemned :—

Tinned Goods (tins), 175.
Potatoes, 192-lbs.

4 Bottles Pickles.
24 Packets Pastry Powder.

Fish Frying and Chip Potato Shops.—There are eight in the district. Under the Public Health Act, 1936, which came into operation on 1st October, 1937, Local Authorities have power to make bye-laws governing this trade.

Attention was given to all the appliances used in connection with this trade respecting cleanliness, etc.

Ice Cream Vendors.—The rooms and utensils used for the manufacture of Ice Cream were periodically inspected, care being taken to ensure that the utmost cleanliness is maintained in the preparation, handling and storage of this commodity.

Butchers.—Small Goods, including Brawn, Polonies, Faggots, etc., were prepared at most Butchers' establishments during the year. The work is carried out in rooms apart from the shops ; the sanitary conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

Bakehouses.—Eleven premises were in use during the year, and there is no underground bakehouse. Limewashing and general cleanliness receives attention.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.—This Act is administered by the County Council, as the District Council is not a Food and Drugs Authority. Any action taken in this district under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts will be found in the County Medical Officer's Report.

Laboratory Work.—Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food :

(a) Chemical.—This is also done by the County Council. Samples of food stuffs, including milk, butter, margarine, &c., are sent to Mr. G. Rudd Thompson, F.I.C., Dock Street, Newport, who is the Public Analyst appointed by the County.

(b) Bacteriological Examination.—Facilities are offered to all Medical Practitioners in the county for Bacteriological Examinations at the County Laboratory, and the services of the Pathologist and Bacteriologist are available for assistance which may be required in the diagnosis of disease.

Samples of milk are examined at the County Laboratory by the County Bacteriologist.

Animal inoculations are also made for the purpose of definitely ensuring against any possible infection by Tuberculosis.

Prosecutions instituted during the year—Nil.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SUMMARY FOR YEAR 1937.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Pul. Tuber.	Erysip- elas.	Puer. Pyr.	Fever. (all forms).	Enteric Fever.	Sm. Pox.	Cer. Spi. Meni.	Oph. Neo.	Mal- aria.	Total.
January	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
February	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
March	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
April	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
June	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
July	...	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
August	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
September	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
October	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
November	...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
December	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Totals	...	15	11	8	6	11	1	—	—	—	—	60

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES,

1937	...	60 Cases	(Scarlet Fever, 15 ; Diphtheria, 11 ; Tuberculosis, 14 ; Erysipelas, 11 ; Pneumonia, 8).
1936	...	56 Cases	(Scarlet Fever, 23 ; Diphtheria, 15 ; Tuberculosis, 10 ; Erysipelas, 5).
1935	...	108 Cases	(Scarlet Fever, 49 ; Diphtheria, 15 ; Tuberculosis, 31 ; Erysipelas, 10).

ANALYSIS OF THE CASES NOTIFIED AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													DEATHS OF CASES NOTIFIED.													
	AGE GROUPS.													AGE GROUPS.													
	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total all ages	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total all ages	
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	6	—	1	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	2	1	4	1	4	1	—	—	—	14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis	—	1	3	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Opthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia (All forms) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Chicken Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	—	1	4	2	2	8	13	7	9	6	3	5	60	4	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	12

Total Number of Cases notified in each Ward.

Upper Ward	...	...	28 cases.
Middle Ward	...	...	18 cases.
Lower Ward	...	...	11 cases.
Abertysswg Ward	...	...	3 cases.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

During the Year 1937.

Disease.			Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	15	1	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	11	1	Nil
Enteric Fever					
(including Paratyphoid)	..		Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	..		8	Nil	10 (all forms)
Other diseases generally notifi- able (specify disease)	...		Nil	Nil	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	..		Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	11	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...		Nil	Nil	Nil
Other diseases notifiable locally (specify disease)	...		Nil	Nil	Nil

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision Un- impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hos- pital.				
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Scarlet Fever.—15 cases (no deaths), as against 23 cases in 1936. No cases in the first quarter, 3 cases in the second quarter, 6 cases in the third quarter, 6 cases in the fourth quarter. Some cases were of a mild type. The Dick Test was not used.

As pointed out in the Monthly and Quarterly Reports, to prevent early scattered cases spreading, the first cases should be at once removed.

The Sanitary Inspector visits each house and instructs how to carry out isolation there ; in most cases from the number of occupants and the type of house this is difficult or impossible.

Small Pox.—No case.

Vaccinations.—Re-vaccinations, 1 ; Primary Vaccinations, 71 ; giving a total of 72, as against 90 in 1936.

Again this year, of 145 births, 72 children only were vaccinated, leaving 73 unvaccinated. Over 50 per cent.

Diphtheria.—11 cases (15 in 1936). No deaths. It is possible that some of these cases were not Diphtheria, as all doubtful cases are watched and injected with serum at the outset, and notified.

1st quarter	...	...	No cases.
2nd quarter	...	...	No cases.
3rd quarter	...	...	10 cases.
4th quarter	...	...	1 case.

The Schools were visited and swabs taken. Carriers found being excluded.

No children were immunised against diphtheria during 1937. During 1935, 210 children, aged 1—7 years, were immunised and the Schick Test carried out.

Erysipelas.—11 cases (5 cases in 1936). No. deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Deaths from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system, 1 ; death rate per 1,000 living, .104 ; deaths from other forms of Tubercular Diseases, Nil ; death rate per 1,000 living, Nil ; death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis, .104. Last year the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .6 ; from other Tubercular Diseases, Nil ; and from all forms of Tuberculosis, .6

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the notified cases and of the deaths :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES—14				DEATHS—1			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	8		6		1		Nil	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	5	1	5	1	—	—	—

One death from Respiratory Tuberculosis. No deaths from non-pulmonary type.

The death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was not notified. This was a mental case ; also had measles, broncho-pneumonia of long duration, abscess of lung and long bouts of Cat'alepsy. The child died in Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

The ratio of non-notified cases being 1 : 1.

Patients from the district are admitted to the following Institutions :

- (1) Glan Ely Hospital, near Cardiff.
- (2) North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh.
- (3) Cefn Mabley Hospital, near Cardiff.

TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS.

(A) Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of 1937 ...	88
Number of cases notified during 1937 ...	8
Number removed from the Register during the year ...	6
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of 1937 ...	90

(B) Tuberculosis (Other Forms).

Number of cases of Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary) on the Register at the commencement of 1937 ...	100
Number of cases notified during 1937 ...	6
Number removed from the Register during the year ...	3
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of 1937 ...	103

Total number of all cases left on Register on 1st January, 1938—
 $90 + 103 = 193.$

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was necessary under these Regulations, which are framed with the view of preventing persons suffering from tuberculosis occupying themselves in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

Section 62.—This Section, which enforces the compulsory removal of a patient suffering from Tuberculosis and in an infectious state to Hospital when there is no proper accommodation at the house was not made use of.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC ONCE A MONTH.

Rhymney and Abertysswg Dispensary.—Year ending 31st December, 1937.

Number of New Cases examined at the Clinic ...	15
Number of New School Cases examined ...	2
Number diagnosed as :—	
(1) Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	5
(2) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1
Number of Patients admitted to Hospital ...	3
Number of Patients admitted to Sanatorium ...	1
Total number of Attendances at the Clinic ...	24

Tuberculosis.—1 death. 14 cases notified (Pulmonary, 8 ; Other than Pulmonary, 6). All suspected cases are sent to the King Edward Memorial Clinic ; if Tuberculosis is found the Memorial notify the case, hence some cases are notified twice.

All cases suspected and confirmed visit the Tuberculosis Clinic periodically, and are kept under observation by the Medical Officer to the Clinic and their own Medical Attendant ; cases went to the Sanatoria and Hospitals provided by the King Edward Memorial.

A sufficient number of suitable new and better houses in place of many of the old ones would provide more light and healthier surroundings with less overcrowding.

This provision should tend to lesson the number of cases of Tuberculosis occurring in the district every year.

Enteric Fever.—No case.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No case.

Puerperal Fever.—One case which died after removal to Rhymney Cottage Hospital and Cardiff.

Pneumonia (Influenzal and Others).—8 cases notified. The heavy rainfall (and high altitude 900 feet) during the winter months has some influence on the number of these cases. 10 deaths from all forms.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—No case notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No case.

Malaria and Dysentery.—No case.

Influenza.—7 deaths. There were a large number of mild cases, amongst which were some with serious lung complications ; these latter cases were more likely to prove fatal in the aged and in young children.

Scattered cases of Influenza occurred throughout the year, mostly of a mild type, increasing in number in the fourth and first quarters of the year.

Literature containing advice was posted up in the district.

Disinfection.—In every case of Infectious Disease the house is visited by the Sanitary Inspector immediately after notification, and frequently during the illness until disinfection is carried out.

Printed instructions are given to the householder and are explained by the Sanitary Inspector.

There is no steam disinfector in the district and no facilities for dealing with verminous persons and their belongings.

In conclusion, I wish to take the opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the willing support of the Council throughout the year, and also the valuable assistance and services rendered the Department by your Sanitary Inspector.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. V. de ACTON REDWOOD, F.R.C.S. (Edin.), etc.,
Medical Officer of Health.



